

# VU Research Portal

## The Epistemology of Textual Interpretation

Bisschop, Wouter Teunis Christoforus

2021

### **document version**

Publisher's PDF, also known as Version of record

[Link to publication in VU Research Portal](#)

### **citation for published version (APA)**

Bisschop, W. T. C. (2021). *The Epistemology of Textual Interpretation: A Study in Analytical Hermeneutics*. [PhD-Thesis - Research and graduation internal, Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam]. s.n.

### **General rights**

Copyright and moral rights for the publications made accessible in the public portal are retained by the authors and/or other copyright owners and it is a condition of accessing publications that users recognise and abide by the legal requirements associated with these rights.

- Users may download and print one copy of any publication from the public portal for the purpose of private study or research.
- You may not further distribute the material or use it for any profit-making activity or commercial gain
- You may freely distribute the URL identifying the publication in the public portal ?

### **Take down policy**

If you believe that this document breaches copyright please contact us providing details, and we will remove access to the work immediately and investigate your claim.

### **E-mail address:**

[vuresearchportal.ub@vu.nl](mailto:vuresearchportal.ub@vu.nl)

Textual interpretation is crucial to our knowledge about and understanding of conversations, laws, holy writings, political declarations, scientific texts, letters, poems, and so on. Many disagreements hinge on interpretive questions and raise epistemological questions about textual interpretations. Can interpretive statements be correct or incorrect, and if so, in virtue of what? Can interpretive beliefs amount to knowledge, or are matters of interpretation never factual? What does it mean to say that our 'perspective' determines our reading of a text, and how would that affect the justification of an interpretation? Can readers do justice to an author in their attempt to describe an author's communicative aims? These and other debated questions are not only important in their own right, but also fundamental with respect to the epistemic status of interpretative practices, as, for example, we find them in the humanities. This dissertation develops an analytical account of the epistemology of textual interpretation, and engages with a wide array of philosophical positions in the fields of epistemology and hermeneutics.

THE EPISTEMOLOGY OF TEXTUAL INTERPRETATION | WOUT BISSCHOP

# THE EPISTEMOLOGY OF TEXTUAL INTERPRETATION

—

## A STUDY IN ANALYTICAL HERMENEUTICS

—

WOUT  
BISSCHOP

—